

NEWS

U.S. SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER/ ARIZONA



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GOLDWATER RELEASES STATEMENT
BY DIRECTOR CASEY

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, released the summary statement that the Honorable William J. Casey, Director of Central Intelligence, presented in testimony to the Committee today. "I thought that the overview that Mr. Casey provided was excellent," said Goldwater. "I asked Mr. Casey to make his statement available in an unclassified form so that I could release it for the information of the American public," explained the Arizona Senator. "All Americans should have an understanding for the threats confronting the United States," he added.

The Senate Armed Services Committee received the Worldwide Intelligence Briefing today from Mr. Casey in the first of the Committee's annual posture hearings.

The full text of Mr. Casey's statement is as follows:

STATEMENT BY WILLIAM J. CASEY, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE,
TO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE,
23 January 1985

"Today I review the principal threats which confront our country and its security interests around the world. In so doing I concentrate on those threats which derive, directly or indirectly, from Soviet power and assertiveness. I take note that the Soviet Union is experiencing many setbacks, at home and abroad, as are certain of its allies, and that a number of situations in the world are working to the Free World's advantage at present. I also take note that our country faces many problems in the world that do not derive from the Soviets -- e.g., political instability, terrorism, narcotics, and economic issues -- and we in intelligence follow such problems closely. Nonetheless, in terms of the magnitude of threat, and of the resulting magnitude of needed U.S. expenditures and effort, it remains the Soviet Union's political objectives, military programs, and conduct which engage our principal vigilance.

At the outset, I wish to stress a few key points.

- First, the Soviet Union will continue to be the chief source of U.S. intelligence concern for the foreseeable future, whatever the ups and downs of U.S.-Soviet negotiations.

- Second, the same will apply whoever the particular top Kremlin official of the moment happens to be.
- Third, paradoxically, even though Marxist-Leninist economic policies are bankrupt all over the world, the military and subversive threat to the world posed by the Soviet Union and its associates remains substantial. This is not just the particular judgment of a particular Director of Central Intelligence; this is cold fact, amply documented by U.S. intelligence on a daily basis.
- Fourth, the fruits of this heavy, constant Soviet pressure on the world, one which combines traditional Russian expansionism with Marxist-Leninist means, can be best appreciated by reminding ourselves of how far the Soviet Union has come over the last 20 years. From a continental power, the Soviet Union has been transformed into a global power. Despite many setbacks abroad the Soviet Union now has clients and access to facilities not only in Eastern Europe, but in Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique, South Yemen, and Afghanistan. And in just the past 10 years, the number of Soviet and Cuban troops, military advisors, and technicians stationed in Third World countries has more than tripled.
- Fifth, despite setbacks the Soviets just keep coming, pushing what the traffic will bear at the particular moment, expanding not only their influence but their physical military presence in the world. Again, this is a cold fact with which we must deal. To illustrate the greatly expanded Soviet and allied military presence the world now faces, we should realize that there are now around 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan; Nicaragua is now the strongest military power in Central America; Ethiopia is the strongest military power in sub-Saharan Africa; there are around 30,000 Cuban combat troops in Angola; Vietnam now has the fourth largest army in the World; and the Soviets now base naval vessels and combat aircraft in Vietnam.
- Finally, I am pleased to report that intelligence also tells us that the total world context is one which in many respects is promising for our country, its interests, its values, and its friends. Central among the promising signs, and central to our discussions here this morning, is the fact that U.S. and allied staunchness has greatly frustrated Soviet policy, a development amply supported by evidence. The ways and means which so profited the Soviet Union in the world in the mid and late 1970s no longer seem to work so well: whether in Soviet policy toward the U.S.A., Western Europe, Eastern Europe, or many spots in the Third

World. The democratic ideal has shown remarkable vitality, as witnessed both by those who have taken up arms to regain their freedom, and by nations, such as those in Latin America, who have returned to popularly elected governments. It is within this context of the Soviet Union experiencing increasing difficulty in competing politically, economically, and technologically with the Free World over the long run that Soviet and Soviet-supported problems must be considered. Thus, despite the many problems we face in the world, the Soviets probably confront even greater difficulties than we do. There is opportunity ahead for the United States and for a safer and saner world. This can occur with continuing vigilance, determination, and imagination."
